

REMARKS

Applicants have revised the abstract and amended the claims to remove terminology not customary in this country, to eliminate improper multiple dependency and non-statutory claims and to improve the claim language. Applicants have also changed the "means" expressions in the claims in order to avoid the strictures on claim scope imposed under 35 USC 112, sixth paragraph. No new matter has been added,¹ nor has the claim scope been narrowed by these amendments.

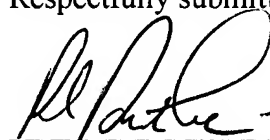
Early action allowing claims 1-23 is solicited.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 424662010200.

Respectfully submitted,

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¹ The deletion of the means-plus-function terminology does not introduce new matter because such "means" language in the United Kingdom, where the international and original priority applications were filed, is interpreted to cover all structures capable of carrying out the recited function and not just those structures disclosed in the specification and their equivalents as they would be in the United States.